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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

February 12, 1999

The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General
of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Walker:

If left uncorrected, the year 2000 computing problem could result in serious disruption to critical functions and services provided by the Small Business Administration (SBA). Accordingly, the Committee on Small Business (Committee) is interested in the progress being made by SBA in addressing the year 2000 issue and bringing its systems into compliance.

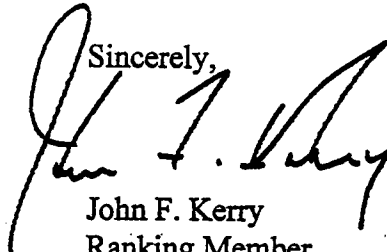
SBA's latest report to OMB indicates the agency is a leader in its renovation efforts government wide. For example, SBA reported that it has brought all of its mission-critical systems into full, year-2000 compliance, validated that those systems are compliant, and implemented those systems. SBA has also reported that it is continuing to work with other organizations and business partners to ensure that information can be exchanged among SBA stakeholders. Because SBA receives a significant amount of data from other entities, compliance in this area is critical to its business operations, as is its need to prepare a viable contingency plan.

Accordingly, the Committee requests that the General Accounting Office (GAO) confirm that SBA is Y2K-compliant. Specifically, the Committee requests that the GAO independently verify that SBA has (1) completed repair and replacement work for its mission-critical systems, and (2) that data from outside entities will continue to support its business operations. Finally, we request that the GAO report to the Committee promptly in this regard. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important matter.



Christopher S. Bond
Chairman
Small Business Committee

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry
Ranking Member
Small Business Committee